

To: Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Fri 1/31/2014 9:12:33 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/31/14

OPA Daily Digest for 1/31/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Mark Warner (Va.): 1/29/14. Constituents concerned about the closing of the Doe Run Lead Smelter. Due: 2/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Dave Loebsack (Iowa): 1/23/14. Requests an update on a constituent's FOIA appeal. Due: 1/30/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa): 1/23/14. Requests that EPA respond timely to the Missouri River Public Water Supplies Association, regarding clarification on requirements applicable to water treatment plant discharges. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo): 1/23/14. Requests an update on EPA projects in southwest Missouri. Due: 1/30/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo): 1/23/14. Letters of support for Brownfields grant applicants. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State and Local Government Inquiries:

Example: Rep Bill Otto (Mo): 1/12/14 - Question on work being done at the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Des Moines Register – Randy Evans – 1/31/14 – Arranged editorial board meeting on Feb. 12 for the regional administrator. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Iowa Public Television – John Nichols – 1/31/14 – Requested a television interview for the regional administrator on Feb. 12. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Nuclear waste dump: Who is responsible? - 1/30/14 - Documents obtained by 5 on Your Side show how one government agency, the Department of Energy, went to great length to avoid any responsibility for cleaning up the West Lake Landfill. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/01/30/west-lake-landfill-nuclear-waste-responsibility/5064891/>

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Pattonville Fire Protection offended by Republic's statement to KSDK - 1/30/14 - In a strongly worded statement, Pattonville Fire Chief Terry Loehrer angrily defended his department's position about the growing concerns regarding the Bridgeton Landfill fires breaching the interceptor wells. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/01/30/pattonville-fire-protection-republic-statement/5061761/>

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - North St. Louis County residents want landfill cleaned up - 1/31/14 - People who live near the radioactive West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton say it's being treated like a nuclear hot potato. A meeting Thursday night gave residents a chance to sound off about that report and get answers to their burning questions. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/01/31/north-st-louis-county-residents-west-lake-landfill/5074809/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Construction of wind-energy transmission line to create Missouri jobs - 1/30/13 - The company behind the Grain Belt Express Clean Line, a high-voltage transmission line through Missouri and Illinois, announced partnerships with suppliers in Missouri that will create new jobs in the state. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/construction-of-wind-energy-transmission-line-to-create-missouri-jobs/article_be6e5f7f-5755-50a1-8ed4-efe299e87ad6.html

Topeka Capital-Journal - KCC to EPA: Be flexible regulating greenhouse gases - 1/30/14 - Staff members from the Kansas Corporation Commission asked environmental regulators to be as flexible as possible when dealing with existing power plants. <http://cjonline.com/news/business/2014-01-30/kcc-epa-be-flexible-regulating-greenhouse-gases>

Des Moines Register - Keep funding nutrient strategy, Northey says - 1/29/14 - Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey will work today to convince state lawmakers they should provide nearly \$9 million to continue work on the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140130/BUSINESS01/301300055/0/SPORTS0205/>

Forum News Service - Plan to pipe Missouri River water to Red River Valley gains momentum - 1/30/14 - The longstanding goal of diverting Missouri River water to supplement water supplies in the Red River Valley is gaining momentum as a state and local initiative. www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_25026186/plan-pipe-missouri-river-water-red-river-valley

Farm Futures - EPA Releases Draft Guidance Documents for Evaluating Pesticide Drift - 1/31/14 - EPA is seeking public comment on two documents that may determine how it evaluates pesticide drift risks.

<http://farmfutures.com/story-epa-releases-draft-guidance-documents-evaluating-pesticide-drift-0-108086>

Sioux City Journal (Iowa) - Iowa water quality plan earns praise despite shortfalls - 1/30/14 - House members offered high praise for the state's voluntary water quality strategy during a joint subcommittee Thursday even as they acknowledged it lacks some measurable goals. http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/iowa-water-quality-plan-earns-praise-despite-shortfalls/article_5d787ba0-b85b-5fa0-99f5-121491255002.html

Wichita Eagle - Marcel Harmon: The true cost of Holcomb - 1/30/14 - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is attempting an end run around the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling last October that the Holcomb coal-fired power plant permit did not demonstrate compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards or the newer hazardous air pollutants emission limits. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/01/30/3256724/marcel-harmon-the-true-cost-of.html>

Scottsbluff Star-Herald (Neb.) - Sioux Co. oil search continues - 1/30/14 - The search for oil continues in Sioux County. Among the multiple, ongoing projects, three Texas and Colorado-based companies recently completed a seismic survey in southern Sioux County with the hope of unearthing black gold in western Nebraska.

http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/sioux-co-oil-search-continues/article_7337de99-3357-59ee-8860-556ffc206839.html

Des Moines Register - Iowa's solar power could outshine Florida's - 1/30/14 - The sun could power more of Iowa's energy needs, with solar potential that exceeds sunny states like Florida, Georgia and Utah, a new report shows. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140131/NEWS/301310102/1029/>

Hannibal Courier-Post (Mo.) - New website shows hazardous waste sites - 1/30/14 - A new online map makes it easier for people to find out details about hazardous waste sites throughout Missouri, including some sites in

Marion, Monroe and Ralls counties. <http://www.hannibal.net/article/20140130/NEWS/140139952>

Des Moines Register - Wind energy construction mired in doubt over credit - 1/31/14 - Wind energy construction in the United States is at an all-time high, but the industry warned Thursday that the start of new projects this year is uncertain as Congress considers whether to extend a two-decade-old tax credit that has expired. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140131/BUSINESS/301310110/1029/>

Des Moines Register - Study: Use caution with sand mining - 1/31/14 - Policymakers should be cautious when it comes to allowing new sand-mining operations in northeast Iowa, and the state should not limit local regulation of such mines, a report issued Thursday advises. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140131/NEWS/301310121/1001/>

Des Moines Register - Iowa View: Clean energy needs this transmission line across Iowa - 1/29/14 - Renewable energy is the future of America, and in Iowa, this means wind. Northwest Iowa is home to some of the best wind resources in the nation. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140130/OPINION01/301300034/1035/>

Bloomberg News - State Department report on Keystone XL pipeline isn't expected to please opponents - 1/31/14 - The State Department is preparing a report that will probably disappoint environmentalists and opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline, according to people who have been briefed on the draft of the document. <http://bigredtoday.com/article/20140131/NEWS/140139777>

Des Moines Register (blog) - Think tank warns Iowa: Go slow, act locally on silica sand mining - 1/30/14 - Policymakers should be cautious when it comes to allowing new sand-mining operations in northeast Iowa, and the state should not limit local regulation of such mines, a report issued Thursday advises. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/01/30/think-tank-warns-iowa-go-slow-act-locally-on-silica-sand-mining/article>

Des Moines Register - Wind industry fears slowdown as Congress considers future of popular tax credit - 1/30/14 - Wind energy construction in the United States is at an all-time high, but the industry warned Thursday the start of new projects this year is uncertain as Congress considers whether to extend a two-decade-old tax credit that expired at the end of the year. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/01/30/wind-industry-fears-slowdown-as-congress-considers-future-of-popular-tax-credit/>

New York Times - Foundations Band Together to Get Rid of Fossil-Fuel Investments - 1/29/14 - Seventeen foundations controlling nearly \$1.8 billion in investments have united to commit to pulling their money out of companies that do business in fossil fuels, the group announced on Thursday. <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/foundations-band-together-to-get-rid-of-fossil-fuel-investments/>

Society of Environmental Journalists - Key Legal Issues Facing the Administration in 2014: Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources - 1/31/14 - Society of Environmental Journalists will host a discussion Feb. 5 of what effects the next Obama Administration will have on environmental law, policy, and practice in 2014. <http://www.sej.org/calendar/key-legal-issues-facing-administration-2014-environment-energy-and-natural-resources>

Bloomberg - Branson's Butanol Heading to U.S. as Ethanol Substitute - 1/29/14 - Butanol, the gasoline substitute promoted by billionaire Richard Branson, is headed for its debut at U.S. pumps as soon as next year in a challenge to ethanol's domination of the \$26 billion renewable fuels market. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-29/branson-s-butanol-heading-to-u-s-as-ethanol-substitute.html>

Christian Science Monitor - Is butanol the future of renewable fuel? - 1/30/14 - Is butanol the future of renewable fuel? Like ethanol, butanol can be produced from corn or sugar cane, but it has a far higher energy density and is easier for refiners to mix with gasoline. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0130/Is-butanol-the-future-of-renewable-fuel>

BuzzFeed Politics - New Documents Raise Questions About Keystone Environmental Study - 1/30/14 - TransCanada recommended the contractor conducting State Department environmental review of the pipeline environmentalists have said is biased towards TransCanada. The company did not disclose that the two firms had worked together previously. <http://www.buzzfeed.com/evanmcsan/foia-docs-show-yet-another-conflict-of-interest-in-keystone>

Washington Post - Wind power supporters push Congress to revive expired tax credit - 1/30/14 - Wind power advocates urged Congress on Thursday to quickly restore the production tax credit that expired at the end of 2013, saying that a prolonged period without it threatens gains made in recent years. http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/wind-power-supporters-push-congress-to-revive-expired-tax-credit/2014/01/30/5c9c86da-89e6-11e3-a5bd-844629433ba3_story.html

Center for Public Integrity - EPA abandons major radiation cleanup in Florida, despite cancer concerns - 1/30/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is walking away after a decades-long battle with Florida politicians and industry officials over cleaning up phosphate-mining waste in an area that could expose more than 100,000 residents to cancer-causing radiation levels. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/01/30/14190/epa-abandons-major-radiation-cleanup-florida-despite-cancer-concern>

National Journal - EPA Chief: Climate-Change Regulation 'Done Deal' Despite Supreme Court Review - 1/30/14 - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy is confident that the Supreme Court won't throw a wrench—at least not a big one—into her agency's power to limit carbon-dioxide emissions. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/epa-chief-climate-change-regulation-done-deal-despite-supreme-court-review-20140130>

Greenwire - Strapped agency prepares hundreds of buyouts in sweeping workforce overhaul - 1/30/14 - U.S. EPA is preparing buyouts for hundreds of employees in its regional offices, as part of an effort to pare its workforce in the face of budget constraints. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059993758>

The Hill (blog) - Wavering policy spells disaster for renewable fuel - 1/30/14 - The advanced renewable fuel industry is in danger. Abengoa Bioenergy has invested in what has until recently been a healthy market for innovation and new technology. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/196891-wavering-policy-spells-disaster-for-renewable-fuel>

The Hill (blog) - Fearing they'll 'be next,' industries unite against Obama's climate change rule - 1/30/14 - A coalition of industry heavyweights on Thursday launched what its calling a do-or-die campaign to influence the regulation of U.S. energy production. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196968-business-plans-major-pushback-on-energy-regulation>

Bloomberg - FERC Enforcement Chief Picked by Obama as Agency Chairman - 1/31/14 - President Barack Obama will nominate former federal prosecutor Norman Bay, now the head of enforcement at the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to be the agency's chairman. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-31/ferc-enforcement-chief-picked-by-obama-as-agency-chairman.html>

ThinkProgress - 24 House Republicans Just Voted To Deny The Reality Of Climate Change - 1/28/14 - The House Energy and Commerce Committee Tuesday voted down an amendment that would have stated conclusively that climate change is occurring. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/01/28/3215971/house-members-deny-climate-change/>

House Energy & Commerce Committee (release) - Committee Leaders Respond to Coal Ash Consent Decree - 1/30/14 - House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders responded today to the consent decree filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that establishes a deadline of December 19, 2014, for the Environmental Protection Agency to take a final action on the coal ash rule that was proposed in June 2010. <http://energycommerce.house.gov/press-release/committee-leaders-respond-coal-ash-consent-decree>

Christian Science Monitor - State of the Union: Is Obama's 'all-of-the-above' energy working? (+video) - 1/29/14 - President Obama used Tuesday's State of the Union address to defend his 'all-of-the-above' energy policy, rankling some who would rather the president pick their favorite fuel. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0129/State-of-the-Union-Is-Obama-s-all-of-the-above-energy-working-video>

Christian Science Monitor - Why Obama's push for climate means trouble ahead for coal (+video) - 1/29/14 - President Obama signals he'll push forward with tougher regulations on carbon-heavy fuels, like coal, in his bid to reduce climate change and create green jobs. That means tough times ahead for coal. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0129/Why-Obama-s-push-for-climate-means-trouble-ahead-for-coal-video>

Environmental Leader - McDonald's, White Castle to EPA: Cut Corn Ethanol Mandate - 1/30/14 - The National Council of Chain Restaurants has urged the EPA to further reduce the levels of corn ethanol mandated under the Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/01/30/mcdonalds-white-castle-to-epa-cut-corn-ethanol-mandate/>

Greenwire - Sens. Wyden, Murkowski float bill to beef up focus on energy-water nexus - 1/30/14 - The top leaders of the Senate's energy panel are looking to increase the federal government's focus on the connections between water and energy. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059993744/>

Greenwire - EPA agrees to finish coal ash rulemaking by December - 1/30/14 - U.S. EPA is promising to take "final action" on coal combustion waste disposal rules by December, according to a proposed consent decree filed yesterday in federal court. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059993747/>

Center for Public Integrity - EPA to regulate coal ash amid court settlement - 1/30/14 - For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency is agreeing to regulate the disposal of coal ash as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed against the agency by environmental groups. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/01/30/14196/epa-regulate-coal-ash-amid-court-settlement>

Greenwire - Storage problem could be solved by 'nuclear fracking' -- scientist - 1/30/14 - A Georgia Institute of Technology scientist says the United States could solve its nuclear waste storage problem by injecting radioactive material into underground shale rock formations. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059993723/>

Brownfield Ag News - Column: Use your voice to tell the truth - 1/30/14 - There are financially –motivated false prophets on both sides of the agricultural animal rights movement; but you are no longer sitting on the sidelines chatting with one another about the “great disconnect.” You are stepping up to the plate. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/01/30/voice-truth/>

Climate Central - Sources of Methane Emissions Still Uncertain: Study - 1/30/14 - From 1999 through 2006, methane concentrations in the atmosphere stopped increasing after more than a decade of strong growth. Then they took off again. Scientists say it is a puzzle. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/sources-of-methane-emissions-still-uncertain-study-17010>

ClimateWire - Methane emissions are rising, puzzling scientists -- report - 1/31/14 - In 2006, the scientists who monitor methane, a greenhouse gas about 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide, thought that concentrations of the gas, which had sharply risen in the 1980s, had plateaued.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059993788/>

Environmental Leader - Cleaning Industry Launches Sustainable Products Initiative - 1/30/14 - The American Cleaning Institute (ACI), whose members include Dow Chemical, Procter & Gamble, SC Johnson and Seventh Generation among other major brands, has launched a voluntary initiative to improve the sustainability of cleaning products. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/01/30/cleaning-industry-launches-sustainable-products-initiative/>

E&E Daily - Mayors ask Obama for help with water projects - 1/30/14 - U.S. mayors are asking President Obama to give a little more love -- and cash -- to the nation's plumbing. Many cities are facing hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars of legally required upgrades to their water infrastructure systems at a time when traditional federal support is dwindling. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059993708/>

E&E Daily - Obama's lack of infrastructure funding proposals frustrates interest groups - 1/30/14 - President Obama in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night offered no new funding proposals for transportation and infrastructure projects, once a prominent part of his domestic agenda, thereby frustrating interest groups gearing up for a fight over rail and highway spending this year. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059993715/>

E&E Daily - Solar has its day in the sun as wind is blown aside - 1/30/14 - Coming off its most successful year to date, the solar industry seems to be emerging as the new cool kid in renewable energy circles with a prominent mention in President Obama's State of the Union address this week.

<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059993712/>

ClimateWire - Compared with cities and states, feds 'late to the climate table' -- McCarthy - 1/31/14 - U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy yesterday acknowledged that the federal government has lagged behind U.S. cities and states in the fight against climate change, arguing that this proves the American public supports her agency's aims to cap emissions from both new and existing power plants.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059993777/>

Domestic Fuel - Iowans Show Passion for Renewable Fuels - 1/29/14 - Iowans were pleased to hear from Iowa Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and Governor Terry Branstad during the 8th Annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/01/29/iowans-show-passion-for-renewable-fuels/>

Blog for Iowa - Iowa, We Have A Water Problem - 1/31/14 - Because of runoff from our farms, we have more than 600 polluted rivers, lakes and streams, causing a nitrate surge in our drinking water.
<http://www.blogforiowa.com/2014/01/31/iowa-we-have-a-water-problem/>

BNP - Localities' Efforts to Ban Fracking Tested By Lawsuits, Raise Issues of State Authority - 1/30/14 - Local efforts to ban or restrict hydraulic fracturing are on the rise. Lawsuits will help decide questions related to preemptive authority over fracking by state regulators.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670926&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5u3a6g2&split=0

BNP - Order Proposed to Reduce Energy Water Use - 1/30/14 - A coalition of 60 activist groups drafted an executive order for President Barack Obama to sign to reduce water consumption and water pollution from energy industries.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40671030&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9z0x6&split=0

BNP - EPA Hails Tapping of Private Capital For \$1.2 Billion Green Infrastructure Project - 1/30/14 - A suburban county in Maryland that faces a 2025 deadline for slashing the amount of polluted stormwater flowing from developed land into its waterways is poised to obtain \$1.2 billion in private financing for "green infrastructure" retrofits.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40671020&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9w1y1&split=0

BNP - EPA Reaches Agreement to Finalize Coal Ash Regulations by Dec. 19 - 1/30/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to issue a final rule by Dec. 19 for managing ash from coal-fired power plants.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670938&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v7v3f1&split=0

BNP - EPA Posts Questions on Ammonia, Trimethylbenzenes - 1/30/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency posted questions Jan. 30 about its draft toxicological reviews for ammonia and trimethylbenzenes for which it would like the Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee's advice.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670940&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9b8p5&split=0

BNP - McCarthy Argues for Action on Climate Change, Defends Diverse Energy Portfolio - 1/30/14 - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency praised President Barack Obama on Jan. 30 for doubling down on his commitment to act on climate change during his State of the Union address and said taking action on climate issues can spur job creation, economic growth and technological innovation.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670975&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9f9f4&split=0

BNP - Court Sides With EPA in Challenge To Disclosures of E-Mails in Alias Account - 1/30/14 - A federal court sided with the Environmental Protection Agency in a lawsuit challenging the disclosure of e-mails sent by former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson under an alias account.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40671000&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9j9c0&split=0

BNB - Plans to Regulate Existing Power Plant Emissions Renew Interest in Carbon Markets - 1/30/14 -

President Barack Obama's effort to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act is renewing interest in market-based carbon reduction programs, an attorney at Hunton & Williams LLP said.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670934&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v1x5m6&split=0

BNB - Inhofe to Introduce Bill Calling for EPA To Report Economic Impact of Regulations - 1/30/14 - Sen.

James Inhofe (R-Okla.) plans to introduce legislation within the next couple of weeks that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to disclose the impact of current regulations on the economy and job creation.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670983&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9h8q4&split=0

BNB - Greenhouse Gas Standards Could Hike Rates For Electricity, Consumer Costs, Senators Say - 1/30/14 -

Twenty-two senators urged President Barack Obama to consider the potential impact on industries and electricity consumers before the Environmental Protection Agency proposes greenhouse gas emission standards for existing power plants.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40670980&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5v9h5p1&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Sets September Deadline To Revise Combustion Air Rule Provisions - 1/30/14 - EPA says it will release by September at the latest its pending proposed reconsideration of key parts of its contested package of combustion emissions rules for boilers and incinerators. <http://insideepa.com/201401302459683/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-sets-september-deadline-to-revise-combustion-air-rule-provisions/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Advocates Urge EPA To Drop Plan For Raising Bar On Water Determinations - 1/30/14 -

Environmentalists are urging EPA to drop its proposal that would raise the bar for when the agency determines that state water quality standards are inadequate and require federal preemption. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/advocates-urge-epa-to-drop-plan-for-raising-bar-on-water-determinations/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Key Court Appears Open To Subjecting CWA Jurisdiction Findings To Review - 1/30/14 -

A key appeals court at recent oral arguments seemed receptive to industry claims that agency determinations that waterbodies are subject to Clean Water Act (CWA) regulation are reviewable. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/key-court-appears-open-to-subjecting-cwa-jurisdiction-findings-to-review/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - EPA, States Weigh Emission Inventory Flaws Ahead Of New Transport Rule - 1/30/14 -

EPA and states are weighing how to fix problems with the agency's emissions inventories -- data used to craft key emissions policies -- ahead of issuance of a replacement for the scrapped Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/epa-states-weigh-emission-inventory-flaws-ahead-of-new-transport-rule/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Draft EPA Permit Sparks Battle Over GHG Controls For LNG Facilities - 1/30/14 - Sierra Club is questioning a first-time EPA draft decision to reject carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a greenhouse gas (GHG) control option for a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/draft-epa-permit-sparks-battle-over-ghg-controls-for-lng-facilities/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - As EPA Crafts Policies, Studies See Few Risks From Encapsulated Coal Ash - 1/30/14 - A pair of EPA-funded studies suggest that there are few if any risks of contaminants leaching from concrete containing recycled coal ash. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/as-epa-crafts-policies-studies-see-few-risks-from-encapsulated-coal-ash/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Coal Ash Reuse Tests Mark Early Application Of New EPA Leaching Model - 1/30/14 - A pair of recently published studies that found limited leaching potential of concrete containing coal ash mark one of the first uses of new test methods, recently approved by EPA's waste office. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/coal-ash-reuse-tests-mark-early-application-of-new-epa-leaching-model/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Facing Growing Scrutiny, EPA Seeks Earlier Role To Bolster SDWA Waivers - 1/30/14 - EPA is urging states and industry to involve it earlier in the process when crafting Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) permit exemptions for underground injection. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/facing-growing-scrutiny-epa-seeks-earlier-role-to-bolster-sdwa-waivers/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Sierra Club Permit Challenges Test EPA GHG Limits In BACT Reviews - 1/30/14 - Environmentalists are challenging a pair of EPA permits hoping to require strict greenhouse gas (GHG) limits at new facilities. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/31/2014/sierra-club-permit-challenges-test-epa-ghg-limits-in-bact-reviews/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Biofuels Advocates Fault Obama's Gas Fuels Focus, Tout RFS' Superiority - 1/30/14 - Biofuels advocates are faulting President Obama's State of the Union address for promoting the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel that can secure significant greenhouse gas (GHG) cuts. <http://insideepa.com/201401302459684/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/biofuels-advocates-fault-obamas-gas-fuels-focus-tout-rfs-superiority/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - McCarthy Touts 'All-of-the-Above' Energy - 1/30/14 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is reiterating President's Obama's support for an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, rejecting environmentalists' calls for the administration to impose a climate test on future energy decisions. <http://insideepa.com/201401302459744/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/mccarthy-touts-all-of-the-above-energy/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - McCarthy Says Climate Change Puts Water Pollution Issues 'On Steroids' - 1/30/14 - EPA
Administrator Gina McCarthy is warning that climate change is exacerbating already difficult water pollution challenges such as high nutrient levels responsible for toxic algae and dead zones, and is calling for more research to better understand the problem and address it. <http://insideepa.com/201401302459749/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/mccarthy-says-climate-change-puts-water-pollution-issues-on-steroids/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/11/14 – Agribusiness Showcase Conference, Des Moines, Kris Lancaster, 7557

2/12/14 – Iowa Legislation Availability Session, Des Moines. Sarah Hatch, 7199

***2/12/14** – Des Moines Register – Editorial Board Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***2/12/14** – CAFO Workplan Meeting with Chuck Gipp, IDNR, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flourney, 7782

***2/13/14** – Strong Cities, Strong Communities Meeting with St. Louis Mayor Slay, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

2/20/14 – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

***2/26/14** – Black History Month Program – Introduce Guest Speaker, Regional Office. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

3/8/14 – Sierra Club 40th Anniversary Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/31/14 – Society of Fellows Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

DRA:

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

***2/12-14/14** - Strengthening the EPA Laboratory Enterprise: Phase I - Priority Needs, Guiding Principles, and Overall Goals, Washington, D.C., Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

***2/24/14** – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo., Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

ENSV

None

PLMG

2/19/14 – Liberty High School speaking engagement, Liberty, Mo. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/OPA

2/24/14 - Westlake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

None

WWPD

2/6/14 – Missouri Clean Water Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060